

Capital: Dushanbe

Population: 6.7 M (2002), 65% Tajik, 25% Uzbek, 3.5% Russian, 6% other (including Kyrgyz)

GDP (current US\$): 1.03 billion

Population below national poverty line: 83%

GDP per capita (current US\$): 161

GDP per capita (purchasing power parity): \$1,140 (2001)

Religion: 85% Sunni Muslim; Shi'a Muslim, 5%

Language usage: Tajik and Russian

President: Imomali Rahmonov

Prime Minister: Oqil Oqilov

Ambassador to the US: Khamrokhon Zaripov



National Interest: Tajikistan is important to U.S. national security and foreign policy interests due to its role as a front line state in the war on terrorism and its role as a transit route for narcotics, arms and possibly nuclear and other materials. The most disadvantaged of the Central Asian Republics, Tajikistan has limited resources, is landlocked with few transportation links, was ravaged by several years of civil war, and drought. However, in spite of its disadvantages, Tajikistan is successfully, if haltingly, making a transition to normalcy, civil order, and democracy. USAID's role is to focus on democratic, economic, and health reform, and conflict mitigation.

OVERVIEW OF USAID'S FOCUS IN TAJIKISTAN

FY 03: Total FSA: \$25.7 million, USAID total - \$18.5

Economic Reform (FY03 \$5.1 Million, 27.5%): USAID's strategy to foster economic growth combines support for small/medium enterprises (Pragma), business education (Carana-EdNet), microfinance (FINCA), and a farmer-to-farmer program (Winrock) with policy reform, including judicial and commercial law reform (ARD/CHECCHI), support to the Ministry of State Revenues for tax reform, assistance to the National Bank for banking sector reform (Bearing Point); and support for WTO accession (Pragma).

Energy & Water (FY03 \$1.4 Million, 7.6%): USAID is assisting the Ministry of Water Amelioration to rehabilitate irrigation systems in southwest Tajikistan. USAID also provides equipment and training to collect, analyze, and communicate vital weather and stream flow forecasting to improve water management and transboundary cooperation (PA Consulting).

Democracy & Media (FY03 \$3.5 Million, 18.9%): USAID provides training, assistance, and small grants to NGOs to build civil society (IREX). USAID also supports independent television, radio and print media with training, legal assistance, and production of a weekly news program (Internews, Asia Plus). USAID supports civic education (IFES), political processes (IFES), local government (Urban Institute), and the judicial reform (ABA/CEELI and IRIS). A new anti-trafficking in persons program will work on prevention as well as drafting anti-trafficking legislation and improved prosecution of traffickers.

Conflict Mitigation (FY03 \$2.0 million, 10.8%): Through the Peaceful Communities Initiative (Mercy Corps) and the Community Action Investment Program (Mercy Corps, Aga Khan, UNDP), USAID promotes public dialogue in identifying sources of conflict, and funding to address those concerns, often resulting in small, community-managed infrastructure projects. Target areas include ethnically diverse communities in the Fergana Valley, as well as the Khatlon region and the Rasht and Tavildara Valleys.

Health & Population (FY03 \$3.5 Million, 18.9%): USAID infectious disease activities include support for reduction of TB (Project Hope), malaria (MERLIN), and HIV/AIDS (PSI/CDC). In primary health care, USAID provides technical assistance for health sector reform, as well as training in family medicine for doctors (Abt Associates, AIHA). Other programs include nutritional surveillance and feeding (Action Against Hunger); drug awareness and prevention activities (Soros); reproductive and child health (Project Hope); maternal/child health (Save the Children); health and family planning through education, awareness, and midwife training (CARE/Aga Khan Foundation); and small grants to health NGOs (Counterpart).

Basic Education Initiative (FY03: \$1.0 Million, 5.4%): This new program will improve teaching methodology and curricula, increase parent and community involvement in schools, strengthen management capacity and rebuild infrastructure in a large number of schools throughout Tajikistan (AED, OSI, Save the Children UK&US; Aga Khan).

Humanitarian Assistance and Food Security Projects: USAID's continuing humanitarian assistance includes poverty alleviation and food security/agriculture projects for vulnerable groups in Khatlon and Sughd regions (UNDP/UNOPS; ACTED); strengthening women's groups and water users associations (CARE); and an agricultural income generation project (Save the Children/US).

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